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2. *Extract of a Letter, dated Gwadar, 5th April, 1863, from Mr. WALTON, in charge of the Line of Telegraph from Kurráchi to that Port, to Major F. Goldsmid.*

THE double line to Ormara was only completed in the middle of January. You can imagine the work it has been, getting tons of iron posts and wire up the Malan, over 2000 measured feet in height. From Kurráchi to Sonmeani I kept near the regular track. From Sonmeani onwards I kept well to the northward of your route,* striking a straight line over the hard sand-hills near the inland lake Seerundo, then meeting your track again at Buddo. I went to Churr and Poor-i-Soont, near the pilgrims' path in *bad weather*—not by the path you adopted, which is the fine weather pass, and likely to be sometimes flooded. From Poor-i-Soont I kept well to the northward of your route, hugging the Háro Mountains to Aghor, and spanning the cleft in the mountains caused by the Hingole flowing through. Then, instead of turning to the north, *viâ* Hinglaj, I found a valley called the Shum Valley, which leads out to the sea, although it was full of “shor” and other abominations peculiar to Mekran.† I considered this my best route, bearing in mind my settled determination to span the eastern face of the Malan. Over a mile and a-half of most difficult “shor” hills between the Shum Valley and Malan Bay the line runs along to the foot of the eastern precipice. The exact height of the drop here is 1620 feet, and it is taken over the level plain at the top to the back of the Khor Butt Valley. Up the rock at this point I cut a road, up which material was brought by manual labour—no easy job, considering each post weighs over 2 cwt., and each mile of double wire 12 cwt., at least. Then down the Khor Butt Valley and along the sea-side to the Manheji, which is spanned by masts close to its mouth. Thence in a north-west direction, in order to cross the Gorhud at a narrow place five miles inland, and keeping the line about that distance from the sea, and to the north of your route, we strike down the isthmus into Ormara on the western side, in order to avoid the drift sand-hills. . . . From the top of the Ormara isthmus I struck off direct for Bussole, keeping well under the hills to clear the Kulmut swamp,‡ and following your route to Shor Kundi; then, instead of going by the sea-side, we go through the “Shor” ranges, and come out at the back of Pusiní. From Pusiní I struck a line direct to the *mouth* of the Shinzánee, and, spanning this, made direct for Mehmed-i-Bul; then, cutting through the Kurwal “shors” to Barambah, the line will come in at the back of the Médée to Gwadar.§ . . . I need not tell you of the physical difficulties of the country we have come through. The want of water in many places has driven us to endure great hardships. A body of 25 Europeans and 600 natives passing through this utterly barren country must expect to meet with very great difficulties. Often I have been obliged to prohibit ablutions of any kind, and to place guards with drawn swords over dirty puddles; but, thank God! we have nearly completed our undertaking now with a trifling loss of men, and not very serious loss of camels. From Kurráchi the double line is completed and working to Shor Kundi, and from Pusiní to the Karwat Pass; and the line will be entirely finished || by the end of this month. Both Europeans and natives have throughout behaved excellently, and, by enforcing the strictest discipline, I have now nearly got through the enterprise without a grumble. Of course, all had to be fed from Kurráchi; and the posts being

* Par. 10 of Major Goldsmid's printed Report, and more particularly par. 12.

† Par. 13 of ditto.

‡ Par. 15 of ditto.

§ Par. 18 of ditto, and Mr. Ryland's Report in Appendix.

|| Reported complete by last mail.

all of iron, brought from England, were distributed eighteen to the mile, and required many camels, which were likewise almost entirely supplied with provender from Kurráchi. We are all exhausted, and glad our labours are near an end, as the hot weather has again set in, and many deaths are occurring among the natives. . . . I have given Mr. Mansfield some curious fossils from the top of the Malan. Government should send a qualified geologist there. It is covered with wonderful fossil remains.
